

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

1-31. (Cancelled)

32. (Currently Amended) A ~~method apparatus~~ for producing a plastic extrudant; the ~~method apparatus~~ comprising:

providing a first extruder configured to extrude a first plastic extrudant;

providing a second extruder configured to extrude a second plastic extrudant, the second plastic extrudant being at least partially transparent;

providing a mixer coupled to the first extruder and the second extruder and ~~producing configured to produce~~ a mixture of the first plastic extrudant and the second plastic extrudant, the mixture including a non-linear pattern; and

providing a die coupled to the mixer, ~~the die receiving to receive~~ the mixture of the first plastic extrudant and the second plastic extrudant to produce a layer, the layer containing the non-linear pattern, wherein the first plastic extrudant of the mixture is visible within the layer due to the second plastic extrudant of the mixture being at least partially transparent.

33. (Currently Amended) The ~~method apparatus~~ of claim 32, wherein the mixer comprises:

a housing having a first end and a second end and an interior region, the first end configured to receive the first plastic extrudant and the second plastic extrudant and the second end configured to expel the mixture of the two extrudants through a plurality of outlets;

a shaft having a first end and a second end, the first end located proximate to the first end of the housing and the second end located proximate to the second end of the housing, the shaft being rotatable relative to the housing about an axis;

at least one projection coupled to the shaft and rotatable with the shaft, the at least one projection configured to orient the mixture of the two extrudants relative to the plurality of outlets in the second end of the housing; and

a thrust bearing configured to couple the second end of the shaft to the second end of the housing to permit expulsion of the mixture in a non-linear pattern as the mixture is oriented relative to the plurality of outlets.

34. (Currently Amended) The ~~method apparatus~~ of claim 33, wherein the thrust

bearing comprises a first bearing and a second bearing configured to be pivotable relative to the first bearing.

35. (Currently Amended) The method ~~apparatus~~ of claim 33, wherein the plurality of outlets includes a plurality of first outlets having a first diameter and a plurality of second outlets having a second diameter.

36. (Currently Amended) The method ~~apparatus~~ of claim 35, wherein the diameter of the plurality of first outlets is 0.5625 inches and the plurality of first outlets are centered on a circle having a radius of 1.125 inches from the axis of the shaft and wherein the diameter of the plurality of second outlets is 0.3125 inches and the plurality of second outlets are centered on a circle having a radius of 1.125 inches from the axis of the shaft.

37-45. (Cancelled).